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Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris, (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TDD/TTY: 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

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November 1995

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-6212

FAX: (301) 504-7125; **TDD/TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: awic@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; **TDD/TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

NAL/New Zealand Share Animal Welfare Information

Beltsville, MD – The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has entered into an agreement with the Government of New Zealand to exchange animal welfare information.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by NAL Director Pamela André and the Chief Veterinary Officer of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), the two organizations “agree to cooperate in a program for the exchange of animal welfare information resources.”

“For years, NAL has informally shared animal welfare information with New Zealand, and many other countries,” André said. “This agreement formalizes our dealings with New Zealand. The goal is to foster the humane treatment of animals used in research, teaching, agriculture, recreation and exhibition.”

To accomplish this the MOU states that NAL and MAF will share animal welfare information; jointly produce materials of interest to both countries; and commit to educate farmers, ranchers and those who use animals in research and teaching of animal welfare concerns and responsibilities.

Coordinating this effort for NAL is the library's Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC), a staff of animal welfare specialists available to provide reference and referral services and database searches to those using animals in research, education and testing, and animals on exhibit.

“The issue of animal welfare is a sensitive one in many countries,” André said. “NAL was mandated by Congress in the 1985 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act to establish the Animal Welfare Information Center to provide information that helps to ensure that animals used in research, agriculture and recreation are treated humanely. This memorandum of understanding with New Zealand is another step in meeting this responsibility.”

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According to AWIC Coordinator Jean Larson, AWIC has similar agreements with organizations in the United Kingdom and Australia.

"We are always interested in collaborating with other countries to produce and disseminate information on animal welfare issues," Larson said. "Ultimately, such collaborations will improve the treatment of animals worldwide."

For additional information contact Jean Larson or the Animal Welfare Information Center at:

Telephone: (301) 504-6212
TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856
FAX: (301) 504-7125
Internet: awic@nalusda.gov

Or write to:

Animal Welfare Information Center, 5th Floor
National Agricultural Library
USDA, ARS
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

In addition to the above contacts, NAL may also be contacted electronically over the Internet. NAL's primary access points for electronic information are its World Wide Web <http://www.nalusda.gov> and Gopher <gopher://gopher.nalusda.gov> sites. Other points of contact include the NAL Information and Circulation Desk, Internet address "circinfo@nalusda.gov", and the NAL Reference Desk, "agref@nalusda.gov." General information on the services and materials available at the library may be obtained by sending an e-mail message without a body to "info@nalusda.gov" for an automatic response.

The Animal Welfare Information Center is one of 10 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to animal welfare, subjects covered by information centers include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development and health, technology transfer, and water quality.

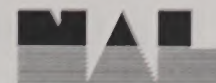
NAL is the largest agricultural library in the world with over 2 million volumes in its collection. NAL receives over 23,000 periodicals yearly from sources all over the world. It is part of the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is one of four national libraries of the United States, with the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine and the National Library of Education. NAL is located in Beltsville, Maryland, on the grounds of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

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Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

NAL Rated Favorably by Customers

Beltsville, MD — The vast majority of customers of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) are either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the services and products of the library.

This is the result of a customer survey recently undertaken by NAL. Specifically, the survey shows that 93 percent of Federal customers, 96 percent of non-federal customers and 80 percent of agricultural librarian customers are satisfied or very satisfied with NAL.

“At a time when most Federal agencies and programs have been taking it on the chin from all sides, the results of our customer survey were a nice surprise for us,” said NAL Director Pamela André. “It’s confirmed what we at NAL have suspected, that our customers recognize and appreciate the valuable service we provide.”

Over 550 NAL customers responded to the survey. Among the areas of library operations cited as “favorable” were the “knowledgeable staff,” the “professionalism” and “courtesy” of the staff, and the “accuracy and quality of materials provided.”

The largest percentage of customers responding negatively to any of the survey questions was only 3 percent.

NAL was assisted by the 3M Company in conducting the survey.

An executive summary of the NAL customer survey is available from the NAL public affairs office, Telephone: (301) 504-6778; FAX: (301) 504-5472; TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856; Internet/E-mail: bnorris@nalusda.gov

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In addition to visiting, telephoning, or telefaxing NAL, researchers may also contact NAL electronically over the Internet. NAL's primary access points for electronic information are its World Wide Web <http://www.nalusda.gov> and Gopher <gopher://gopher.nalusda.gov> sites. Other points of contact include the NAL Information and Circulation Desk, Internet address "circinfo@nalusda.gov", and the NAL Reference Desk, "agref@nalusda.gov." General information on the services and materials available at the library may be obtained by sending an e-mail message without a body to "info@nalusda.gov" for an automatic response.

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Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

Paintings by Chinese Farmers Exhibited at NAL

Beltsville, MD – An exhibit of paintings by Chinese farmers is on display at the National Agricultural Library (NAL) from October 26 and continuing through the month of November. The artwork is being loaned to NAL for display by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

The exhibit opened with an official ceremony at NAL on the afternoon of October 26. The speakers at the ceremony were: Karl Stauber, Under Secretary, Research, Education and Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Zhou Wenzhong, Minister of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China; and Pamela Q. J. André, Director, National Agricultural Library.

"The National Agricultural Library is pleased to be the site for this exhibit," said NAL Director Pamela André. "It seems particularly appropriate that paintings by farmers should be displayed here at NAL, the largest agricultural library in the world. The artwork is intriguing and beautiful and we thank the Chinese Embassy for allowing NAL to present it to the American public."

The Chinese name of the artform is "Tianjin Yangliuqing Wood-Block New Year Painting" and its origins date back to the sixteenth century. The works cover subjects ranging from historical and mythological stories, traditional Chinese opera, Chinese customs, mountain and water scenes, and flowers and birds.

The paintings will be on display in the NAL lobby through November, during the library's normal operating hours, 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

NAL is part of the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is one of four national libraries of the United States, with the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Library of Education.

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Telephone: (301) 504-6778
FAX: (301) 504-5472; TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856
Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

NAL Materials Featured in German Embassy Exhibit

Beltsville, MD – The contributions of German immigrants to U.S. agriculture is the subject of an exhibit in the Carl Schurz Auditorium of the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., November 3-30, 1995. Historic materials from the National Agricultural Library (NAL) are featured as part of the exhibit.

The German Embassy hosted a reception for invited guests on the evening of November 2 to officially open the exhibit. Peter H. Carstensen, the chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the German Federal Parliament and Richard Rominger, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture were the principal speakers at the reception.

The public can make arrangements to tour the exhibit during November by calling the agricultural office of the German Embassy at (202) 298-4347 or 4334. (Note: The exhibit may be extended to mid-December.)

Among the contributions spotlighted in the exhibit are cheesemaking and dairy practices, viticulture, brewing, horticulture, and forestry, including the introduction by German settlers of the tradition of the Christmas tree into the United States.

The exhibit was organized by the German Embassy and the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, a private NAL "friends" group, and the Library of Congress.

"We are grateful to the NAL Associates, the German Embassy and the Library of Congress for this opportunity to showcase some of the beautiful NAL materials related to German immigrant contributions to U.S. agriculture," said NAL Director Pamela André. "As people will see when looking at the exhibit, these contributions were significant in shaping agriculture in the United States as it is today."

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The exhibit is divided into several stations which focus on German and German-American gardens, forestry, agricultural research, German settlements including the Pennsylvania Dutch and the Amana Colonies in Iowa, herbology, viticulture (including winemaking), the brewing of beer, and displays of the traditional German Christmas tree contrasted with the traditional American Christmas tree.

A videotape program on the private history of a German immigrant family that started a successful dairy farm in Wisconsin is being shown with other materials.

Several American companies started by German immigrants are part of the exhibit as well. These companies include Weyerhaeuser wood products; Anheuser-Busch, Old Heurich, and Leinenkugel brewing companies; Gundlach-Bundschu and Stone Hill wineries; and Behnke nurseries.

The German Embassy is located at 4645 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, D.C.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-5619

FAX: (301) 504-6409; **TDD/TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: fnic@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; **TDD/TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

Second Food Irradiation CD-ROM Available from NAL

Beltsville, MD – A second CD-ROM on food irradiation is now available from the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

The disc, Food Irradiation 2, contains 11,000 pages of government research conducted in the 1950s and 60s on the “wholesomeness of irradiated foods.” Information on the disc is in the form of searchable bibliographic records plus actual page images from reports and articles.

The disc was produced as part of the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Program (NATDP) with assistance from NAL’s Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC). Another disc, Food Irradiation 1, was produced by NAL in 1993. NAL produced both discs in response to growing international need for access to food irradiation research materials.

“Food irradiation is approved and used in 38 countries and endorsed by the Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Health Organization of the United Nations,” said FNIC Coordinator Sandy Facinoli. “Prior to the food irradiation discs, some of the research material was available only in paper form at NAL. Food Irradiation 1 and 2 make this material more accessible and assist scientists in studying the research and literature on the subject.”

The research materials on the latest disc include progress, pathology, and clinical reports, raw data and journal articles. Most of the materials are from research conducted by the Department of the Army.

According to Facinoli, at the time the research was being conducted, a General Accounting Office study put the value of the research at \$80 million.

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Facinoli said FNIC worked closely with Dr. Ari Brynjolfsson, the former director of the International Facility for Food Irradiation Technology in The Netherlands, in evaluating and organizing materials for the new disc.

Copies of Food Irradiation 2 are available by contacting:

Food and Nutrition Information Center
National Agricultural Library, Room 304
USDA, ARS
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

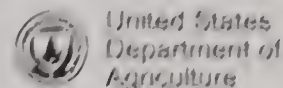
Telephone: (301) 504-5619
TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856
Fax: (301) 504-6409
Internet/E-mail: fnic@nalusda.gov

Through the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Program, NAL produces CD-ROMs containing sections of the NAL collection related to specific agricultural subjects. NAL distributes the discs to land-grant university libraries and other organizations. Other NATDP discs include Nicoll's Birds of Egypt, Agronomy Journal, Aquaculture II, and George Washington Carver.

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PRESS RELEASE — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-5724

FAX: (301) 504-4479; TDD/TTY: (301) 504-4256

Internet/E-mail: afsic@nalsda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-4778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TDD/TTY: (301) 504-4256

Internet: bnorris@nalsda.gov

Sustainable Agriculture Reference Guide Available from NAL

Potsdam, MD — A new reference guide on sustainable agriculture has been published by the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and is available to the public.

Sustainable Agriculture in Print: Current Periodicals was produced by NAL's Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC) and is intended "to serve as a guide to the current periodical literature on agricultural sustainability issues, developments, and practices." The publication defines sustainable agriculture as "a system that ensures a long-term supply in terms of agricultural productivity, with broad consideration and appraisal of the environmental and social values associated with food and fiber production and distribution." Two hundred and twenty-one periodicals are listed. Copies of this publication in hardcopy and in electronic format are available from:

Alternative Farming Systems Information Center

National Agricultural Library, 4th Floor

USDA, ARS

15701 Beltsville Road

Potsdam, Maryland 20750-2351

Telephone: (301) 504-5724

TDD/TTY: (301) 504-4256

FAX: (301) 504-4479

Internet/E-mail: afsic@nalsda.gov

AFSIC is one of ten specialized information centers established by NAL to keep abreast of current information on various aspects of agriculture. Other subjects covered include agricultural trade and marketing, animal health, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genetics, rural development and health, technology transfer, and water quality.

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Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856

Internet/E-mail: bnorris@nalusda.gov

Pisa Named NAL Associate Director, Public Services

Beltsville, MD — The director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), Pamela André, has announced the selection of Maria G. Pisa as the NAL Associate Director, Public Services.

Pisa had been NAL's Assistant Director, Policy and Planning, since 1990.

In her new position, Pisa will head NAL's Public Services Division, with responsibilities for document delivery, reference services, special collections and NAL's specialized information centers activities.

In announcing Pisa's selection, André said, "Since starting work at NAL 14 years ago, Maria has consistently demonstrated her commitment to and in-depth understanding of the library's goals and responsibilities. She is tireless and insightful, and has contributed significantly to the operation of the library. NAL will benefit from these attributes even more with Maria as our new Public Services Associate Director."

Pisa began at NAL in 1981 as a reference librarian and steadily progressed to more responsible positions. In 1984-87, she was leader of Special Services and Communications, editing the library's monthly newsletter, ALIN (Agricultural Libraries Information Notes), and coordinating the library's outreach programs.

In 1987, she was promoted to Assistant to the Chief of NAL's Public Services Division and Acting Head of the Reference and User Services Branch. In these positions, she led the effort to develop NAL's computer bulletin board, ALF (Agricultural Library Forum), which provides electronic access to the library.

As Assistant Director, Policy and Planning, her most recent position, she assisted the Director and senior managers in NAL strategic planning and was instrumental in improving international relationships for NAL, including

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coordinating a series of "roundtable" conferences with agricultural librarians from eastern and central Europe and Latin America.

Before joining NAL, Pisa was a technical information specialist with the Statistical Reporting Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and taught high school English for several years in New York. She has a Master of Library Science degree from Catholic University and a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston University. She has written extensively on library issues and is a member of several professional societies, including the American Library Association.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-5853

FAX: (301) 504-7473; TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856

Internet/E-mail: jzidar@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856

Internet/E-mail: bnorris@nalusda.gov

NAL Helps Egyptians Produce New CD-ROM

Beltsville, MD – A training program the National Agricultural Library (NAL) conducted to teach Egyptian librarians about CD-ROM (compact disc-read only memory) technology has resulted in the latest NAL CD-ROM, "Nicoll's Birds of Egypt."

The disc, produced jointly by NAL and the Egyptian National Agricultural Library (ENAL), was funded through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"NAL has been working with the Government of Egypt for the last several years to establish the Egyptian National Agricultural Library," said NAL Director Pamela André. "Since 1990, NAL has been providing Egyptian librarians with training and guidance in all aspects of building and running a world-class agricultural library. And since CD-ROM is becoming an important medium for the dissemination of information, NAL provided training in that too."

The CD-ROM is an electronic version of "Nicoll's Birds of Egypt," a two-volume, 700-page work by Colonel R. Meinertzhagen, published in 1930 under the authority of the Egyptian Government. The disc was produced from this work by Egyptian librarians Hend Fathalla and Magdy El-Sayed, who recently spent two months at NAL in Beltsville, Maryland.

Judi Zidar, NAL Coordinator of the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Program (NATDP), conducted the training and decided that a "hands-on" approach would be most beneficial.

"Hend and Magdy set to work from the first day selecting what they would scan, designing a database, and preparing the materials," Zidar said. "They performed the scanning and text recognition, added headers containing

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bibliographic and taxonomic information and inserted image links. They left NAL with boxes of notes and training materials, prepared to begin their own CD-ROM production program at ENAL."

The disc contains descriptions, keys to species, and geographic and ecological information on Egypt's birds based on research conducted by a scientist named Michael Nicoll in the early part of this century. Over 40 full-color images are included, as well as black and white drawings and comparative tables.

ENAL will distribute the disc to users in Egypt and NAL is sending copies to land-grant university libraries in the United States.

Through the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Program, NAL produces CD-ROMs on various sections of the library's collection and distributes the discs to land-grant universities. Other discs produced and distributed under the program have covered food irradiation, aquaculture, agronomy, Agent Orange, acid rain, the research of George Washington Carver, and food, agriculture and science.

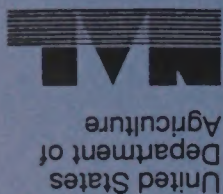
For additional information contact:

Judi Zidar, NATDP Coordinator
Information Systems Division, Room 013
National Agricultural Library
USDA, ARS
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Telephone: (301) 504-5853
TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856
FAX: (301) 504-7473
Internet/E-mail: jzidar@nalusda.gov

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National Agricultural Library
Public Affairs Office, Room 204
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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